

CONFIDENTIAL

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20 February 1957

MEMORANDUM TO: AD/DO

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SUBJECT: Mr. [REDACTED] Memo of 15 February 1957

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[REDACTED]

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1. The members of the [REDACTED] are highly qualified scientists, but they are not conversant with the organization of CIA, with its personnel or with the way it operates in the intelligence community, and neither are they experts on intelligence or on "scientific intelligence" (bearing in mind that the whole concept of scientific intelligence is scarcely ten years old and in this country is considerably younger than that).
2. The very questionable assumption that we must assume a state of emergency with regard to national defense as an essential condition to adequate intelligence is basic to that part of the memo under 1. Obviously, we can never have a sound long term system if this assumption is right.
3. I am here at considerable personal sacrifice and can, I think, be objective about CIA. I certainly know more about its personnel than any of the men on the [REDACTED] and I am, as I think you know, exceedingly impressed with the competence of the men who work here. I think [REDACTED] should know this because his own morale cannot help but be affected by the irreverence he heard at this meeting.
4. As you know, the whole problem of scientific intelligence in the over-all intelligence community is being reviewed at this time. I am not sure what the members of the panel meant when they spoke of a definite lack of leadership in CIA. I am inclined to think that they do not mean leadership in the normal sense but, instead, mean top scientific competence. I raise the question of whether top scientific competence is essential to make a good intelligence officer in the scientific field. [REDACTED] has said that scientific competence is not important and has said that

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the best men in scientific intelligence are not scientists. The purpose of a panel such as the [] is to make available the use of top scientific brains when they are necessary for evaluations.

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5. Mr. [] statements about CIA and State are entirely irresponsible. CIA certainly does not believe that State obstructs the flow of intelligence, nor do I believe that State accedes CIA of this.
6. Mr. [] should understand that it is not the job of CIA to get intelligence through to operating departments of the Service areas. CIA does not have the competence nor the right at law to do this. All CIA intelligence production moves into the Services through well known channels, and, if it does not reach the necessary operational people there, the results may be unfortunate for the country but it is not a matter that CIA can ever do anything about. This comment goes to the reference to NELL.
7. Part of the difficulty with the [] panel may be that it does not understand its own function. The members of this panel are retained to give scientific advice on specific matters when requested. They are not part of the intelligence team and have no right to know (because no need to know) the real facts covering many of the situations of which they complain.

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Stuart Hedden
Inspector General

cc: DD/I w/subject memo.

IG:SH/b
Distr: Orig&l-add
1-DD/I w/subject memo
1-ER
2-signer ✓